Abstract

The present invention relates generally to the enantiomers of *para*-hydroxy-milnacipran or congeners thereof. Biological assays revealed that racemic *para*-hydroxy-milnacipran is approximately equipotent in inhibiting serotonin and norepinephrine uptake (IC_{50} = 28.6 nM for norepinephrine, IC_{50} = 21.7 nM for serotonin). Interestingly, (+)-*para*-hydroxy-milnacipran is a more potent inhibitor of norepinephrine uptake than serotonin uptake (IC_{50} = 10.3 nM for norepinephrine, IC_{50} = 22 nM for serotonin). In contrast, (–)-*para*-hydroxy-milnacipran is a more potent inhibitor of serotonin uptake compared to norepinephrin uptake (IC_{50} = 88.5 nM for norepinephrine, IC_{50} = 40.3 nM for serotonin). The invention also relates to salts and prodrug forms of the aforementioned compounds. In certain embodiments, the compounds of the present invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient are combined to prepare a formulation for administration to a patient. Finally, the present invention relates to methods of treating mammals suffering from various afflictions, e.g., depression, chronic pain, or fibromyalgia, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the present invention.